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EDWARD CONLEY

CHINA EXPERTS ON PEKING CHANGES
///TAPE INSERTS AVAILABLE IN LIBRARY///

ANNCR:

THE ABRUPT DISMISSAL OF CHINESE VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AND THE APPOINTMENT OF HUA KUO-FENG AS THE APPARANT SECOND HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL IN CHINA IS BEING VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT, BUT NOT NECESSARILY PERMANENT VICTORY FOR SO CALLED CHINESE RADICALS. THAT'S THE VIEW OF TWO CHINA SCHOLARS BASED IN WASHINGTON WHO SPOKE WITH VOA'S EDWARD CONLEY:

VOICE:

SINOLOGISTS ARE STILL VIEWING WITH AWE THE QUICK CHANGE IN THE PEKING HIERARCHY...THE DISMISSAL OF PREMIER CHOU EN LAI'S HAND-PICKED SUCCESSOR, TENG HSIAO-PING, AND THE ELEVATION TO PREMIER AND FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF HUA KUO-FENG, UNTIL RECENTLY, A RELATIVE UNKNOWN.

PROFESSOR FRANZ MICHAEL, DIRECTOR OF THE SINO-SOVIET INSTITUTE AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, ATTRIBUTES TENG'S DOWNFALL TO A MISCALCULATION OF HIS POWER:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- MICHAEL

"I THINK TENG HSIAO-PING OVERSTEPPED HIS POSITION BEFORE HE WAS SURE THAT HE HAD IT. IN OTHER WORDS, BEFORE MAO'S DEATH. AND IN MY VIEW WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH MAO, PROBABLY. HE DID THIS DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION -- AT LEAST HE WAS ACCUSED OF THAT -- THAT'S HIS STYLE AND HE MAY HAVE THOUGHT HE WAS STRONGER THAN HE WAS. SO, THAT IS WHAT BROUGHT HIM INTO TROUBLE. HE APPOINTMENT MEN LOYAL TO HIM IN PROVINCIAL POSITIONS AND I BELIEVE IT WAS HE WHO SENT THE HELICOPTER PILOTS BACK TO THE SOVIET UNION... A MAJOR GESTURE OF RAPPROACHMENT. I THINK IT WAS THIS LAST THING, ACTUALLY, WHICH WAS THE THING THAT ACTUALLY TRIGGERED MAO'S ACTION... FIRST THE ATTACKS IN THE PRESS AND THEN THE APPOINTMENT OF HUA."

VOICE:

PROFESSOR MICHAEL VIEWS THE DISMISSAL OF TENG HSIAO-PING AND THE ASCENDENCY OF HUA KUO-FENG AS A VICTORY FOR CHINA'S SO-CALLED RADICALS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY A PERMANENT ONE.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- MICHAEL

"AT THE MOMENT, I THINK, THE MAOISTS HAVE BEEN CLEARLY STRENGTHENED. HOW MUCH THEY ARE ABLE TO REMOVE ANY OPPOSITION -- PROVINCIALLY, FOR INSTANCE, OR POTENTIALLY IN THE MILITARY -- IS DIFFICULT TO SAY. SO FOR ME, AS BEFORE, I ALWAYS BELIEVE THE CONFLICT IS STILL UNRESOLVED AND I THINK IT IS NOW. MAO HAS NOW THE UPPER HAND, BUT IN PART THAT DEPENDS ON HIS REMAINING ALIVE. AND THE QUESTION IS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER MAO? IT IS MY OFFHAND REACTION THAT THE LONGER MAO IS ABLE TO HANG ON THE BETTER CHANCE HE HAS TO BRING HIS GROUP TO POWER AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. THE SOONER HE DISAPPEARS, THE MORE QUESTIONABLE THE SITUATION BECOMES."

VOICE:

THE VIEWS OF PROFESSOR FRANZ MICHAEL.

DOCTOR A. DOAK BARNETT, A SENIOR FELLOW AT THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION IN WASHINGTON, ALSO VIEWS THIS WEEK'S CHANGES IN PEKING AS A TEMPORARY GAIN FOR CHINA'S SO CALLED LEFTISTS. BUT HE, LIKE PROFESSOR MICHAEL, FEELS THAT NEW POSITION MUST NOW BE CONSOLIDATED:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- BARNETT

"I THINK IT DOES REPRESENT FOR THE MOMENT AN INCREASE IN INFLUENCE IN THE LEFT. BUT I DO NOT THINK YOU CAN SAY THAT ANYTHING IS NECESSARILY FINALLY RESOLVED. I WOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND AND WATCH HOW HUA GOES ABOUT TRYING TO STRENGTHEN AND CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION, FIRST OF ALL. AND SECONDLY, I THINK WE HAVE TO WATCH AND SEE WHAT THE DIRECTION OF POLICY IS. I PERSONALLY WOULD NOT EXPECT A RADICAL SWING IN POLICY TOWARD THE VIEWS OF THE LEFT WING IN CHINA."

VOICE:

ACCORDING TO DOCTOR BARNETT, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS WEEK'S PEKING POWER SHIFTS COULD

BE THE DECISION BY PARTY CHAIRMAN MAO TSE TUNG TO ONCE AGAIN HAND PICK HIS EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR..IN THE PERSON OF HUA KUO-FENG:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- BARNETT

"IT LOOKS IN A WAY AS THOUGH MAO ONCE AGAIN MAY BE TRYING TO DESIGNATE A PARTICULAR PERSON AS HIS SUCCESSOR. HE HAS NOT DONE THAT SINCE 1971 WHEN HIS LAST CHOICE, LIN PIAO, WAS PURGED. IF SO, THIS IS A VERY MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AND A NEW STAGE IN THE PROCESS. BUT I WOULD END BY SAYING THAT THIS PROCESS IS NOT OVER. THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG AND HARD PROCESS. IF HUA IS IN THAT KEY A POSITION NOW, HE'S GOT A PROBLEM OF CONSOLIDATING IT. AND WE HAVE TO BE READY FOR FURTHER CHANGES AND SURPRISES, I'M AFRAID."

VOICE:

WHAT KIND OF A MAN HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO HOLD THE SECOND HIGHEST POSITION IN CHINA? (OPT) LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT HUA KUO-FENG. HE SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER IN MAO TSE-TUNG'S HOME PROVINCE...HUNAN. ONLY RECENTLY HE MOVED TO MORE PROMINENT POSITIONS IN PEKING AS HEAD OF PUBLIC SECURITY, MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO AND THEN, SURPRISINGLY AS ACTING PRIME MINISTER. (END OPT) DOCTOR BARNET SAYS IT'S DIFFICULT TO PLACE MISTER HUA IN CHINA'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM, BUT HE LEANS TO THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS CLOSE TO THE CENTER:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- BARNETT

"I GUESS I WOULD SAY FROM WHAT LITTLE WE KNOW...THE SPEECHES HE'S MADE AND READ AND SO ON, I WOULD NOT PLACE HIM ON THE FAR LEFT. HE MAY HAVE LEANED SLIGHTLY TO THE LEFT...HE MAY HAVE WORKED WITH THE LEFT IN THIS RECENT PERIOD. BUT ESSENTIALLY, MY INSTINCT LEADS ME TO THINK HE'S CLOSER TO THE CENTER, REALLY. BUT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PLACE HIM EXACTLY IN THE SPECTRUM OF CHINA -- OF POLITICS IN CHINA. I DO NOT THINK THERE'S EVIDENCE, AS I SAY, THAT HE'S A MAN ON THE FAR LEFT--ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS TO HAVE EMERGED OUT OF THE LEFT'S COUNTER ATTACK AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING."

VOICE:

DOCTOR BARNETT FEELS THAT DESPITE CHINA'S INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS, PEKING'S INTERNATIONAL POLICIES HAVE NOT

BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. HUA KUO-FENG IN RECENT MONTHS HAS REITERATED CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL POLICIES. BUT THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTE SINOLOGIST SAYS THE RESULTS OF THE NEW CHANGES IN PEKING WILL HAVE TO BE WATCHED CLOSELY:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- BARNETT

"THE FEW CLUES THAT HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM HUA KUO-FENG'S CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS SO FAR DO NOT INDICATE SIGNS OF A CHANGE OF POSTURE OR POLICY. HE HAS MET WITH SOME AMERICANS NOW AND HAS REITERATED THE POLICIES OF THE LAST FEW YEARS. BUT I WOULD REITERATE THAT ALL OF THESE CHANGES BEGIN TO INTRODUCE NEW QUESTIONS AND NEW UNCERTAINTIES AND WE HAVE TO BE VERY ALERT AND SEE WHERE THINGS MAY MOVE."

VOICE:

THE VIEWS OF TWO WASHINGTON BASED CHINA SCHOLARS ON THIS WEEK'S DISMISSAL OF TENG HSIAO-PING FROM HIS HIGH RANKING POSITIONS IN CHINA'S GOVERNMENTAL AND PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE ASCENDANCY OF HUA KUO-FENG TO A POSITION WHICH COULD, SOME THINK, GROOM HIM TO EVENTUALLY SUCCEED MAO TSE TUNG.

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